

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated December 12, 2003, claims 1-16 are noted as pending. Claims 1-2, 8-14, and 16 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Hollowell et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,590,061 (Hollowell). Claims 3-7 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hollowell in view of Mittal et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,719,800 (Mittal). Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

Claims 1-2, 8-14, and 16 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Hollowell. However, Hollowell does not disclose “asserting a thermal trip signal from the processor” and “causing the processor to enter a halt state” as claimed in amended claim 1.

Similarly, Hollowell does not disclose “a processor interface unit to monitor a thermal trip signal from a processor” and “a voltage regulator module interface to assert a power off signal to a voltage regulator module in response to an assertion of the thermal trip signal” as claimed in claim 8.

Further, Hollowell does not disclose “a processor including a thermal trip signal output that is asserted in response to an overheat condition” as claimed in claim 11.

Hollowell teaches using operating system initiated interrupts executed by a processor to poll a microprocessor to determine a temperature sensor measurement (see Figure 1, for example). There is no teaching of the processor asserting a thermal trip signal, as claimed in independent claims 1, 8, and 11. For these reasons, claims 1-16 are not anticipated by Hollowell.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 3-7 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hollowell in view of Mittal. Mittal also does not disclose or teach a processor asserting a thermal trip signal, as claimed in independent claims 1, 8, and 11. Therefore, a combination of the Hollowell and Mittal references would not yield all of the limitations of the independent claims. For these reasons, claims 1-16 are patentable over the Hollowell and Mittal references.

CONCLUSION:

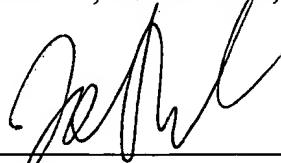
In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that claims 1-16 are distinguished over the cited art and are in condition for allowance. Allowance of claims 1-16 is respectfully requested.

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT AUTHORIZATION

Authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any charges that may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP



John Patrick Ward
Reg. No. 40,216

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12400 Wilshire Boulevard
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90025-1030
(408) 720-8598